

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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■ System management could help relieve freeway traffic congestion

Got freeway bottlenecks? They can hit the road, thanks to roadbed sensors, ramp meters and other technology.

These tools can help define recurring traffic bottlenecks, measure traffic delays and calculate losses in worker productivity on local freeways, according to System Metrics Group President Tarek Hatata, who spoke to the Board of Directors.

Hatata explained how these tools were used in a Caltrans-funded demonstration project on Interstate 880 in the Bay Area. Using sensors placed at regular intervals along a 35 mile stretch of this freeway, researchers identified the location and cause of traffic bottlenecks and how to relieve those problems using traffic management systems like ramp meters, rather than building new freeway lanes. The study also computed corridor delays, including the average delays on weekday mornings and afternoons over a three year period.

Roadbed sensors also provide information to the California Highway Patrol, which reported between five and 15 collisions per day on this section of I-880 and a total of 100 incidents per day, including stalled cars and road debris. The data can be used to determine need for Freeway Service Patrols, Hatata said.

In San Bernardino County and statewide, Caltrans has installed roadbed sensors. However, sensors are not in all areas or may be inoperable. Caltrans Deputy District Director Syed Raza said at the meeting that the department is working to add more sensors on heavily used freeways in San Bernardino County.

SANBAG Executive Director Tony Grasso emphasized the need for solid data, rather than anecdotal accounts of traffic, and said that a lack of reliable data can affect funding availability. This issue will be studied further, he said.

■ Watson, Hall awarded for long-term service

The Board of Directors saluted Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board Vicki Watson and Accounting Assistant II Candie Hall for their years of service to SANBAG. President Dennis Hansberger presented a 15-year service pin to Watson, at left, and a five-year service pin to Hall, at right, and thanked them for their longevity with the agency.



■ Board votes against study of SCAG withdrawal

Board members voted against a recommendation to form an ad hoc committee to work with the Riverside County Transportation Commission to study the formation of an Inland Empire Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Had the recommendation been approved, SANBAG Board President Dennis Hansberger would have sought volunteers for the committee, which would have met with RCTC officials to explore a local MPO, rather than continue as part of the Southern California Association of Governments.

Members who opposed forming a committee to study the issue expressed concerns that this issue had already been studied by SANBAG in the past, that SANBAG has been working collaboratively with SCAG and that the financial burden to form a separate organization would be great.

Supporters of the ad hoc committee formation cited the need for a greater voice in SCAG and a greater local identity.

Down the road . . .

- Sept. 15: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 20: Administrative Committee, 11 a.m.
- Sept. 20: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Sept. 21: Major Projects Committee, 10:30 a.m.
- Sept. 21: Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- Sept. 27: Women's Transportation Seminar Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 2-6: Rideshare Week; Beech Avenue Park & Ride Lot Grand Opening in Fontana, Oct. 5

New Park & Ride lot opens in Fontana

Lot will help carpoolers — just in time for Rideshare Week, October 2-6



Meet me at “The Beech” — the Beech Avenue Park & Ride Lot in Fontana, that is. The lot opened for carpoolers and vanpoolers on September 5 and local officials will celebrate with a grand opening event next month during California Rideshare Week, October 2-6.

This month’s *Street Smart* provides information about this new lot, other Park & Ride lots and Rideshare Week.

New Beech Avenue Park & Ride Lot

With 186 spaces, the new lot on Beech Avenue in Fontana offers carpoolers and vanpoolers plenty of places to put it in park. The lot is located immediately north of State Route 210 between Cherry and Citrus Avenues (see map below).

The new lot offers easy access for Route 210 commuters, because the westbound carpool lane on-ramp and the eastbound carpool lane off-ramp lead drivers directly to Beech Avenue. This feature makes life simple for carpoolers.

“These types of ramps are known as drop-ramps, and they provide quick and easy access to and from the 210 freeway for those who rideshare,” said Michelle Kirkhoff, SANBAG’s Director of Air Quality and Mobility Programs.

Two other Park & Ride lots have Route 210 and Interstate 15 access in Rancho Cucamonga, but these lots fill up quickly during peak periods. The new Beech Avenue lot now provides another options for travelers on the eastern portion of Route 210.

The lot was financed by a combination of Measure I half-cent sales tax revenue and federal funds. Caltrans was responsible for the construction and will be responsible for the lot maintenance.

A grand opening celebration is set for October 5 — bright and early — from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Visitors can enjoy coffee and doughnuts and other giveaways, plus live broadcasts from KOLA 99.9 FM.



Other Park & Ride Lots

San Bernardino County has 13 Park & Ride lots. For a map of locations, visit commutesmart.info. The lots include:

- L Street at Interstate 15 in Barstow
- 10175 Cedar Ave. at Interstate 10 in Bloomington
- 3321 Chino Ave. at Route 71 in Chino
- Lake Drive between Wildrose Lane and Forest Shade, east of Route 138 in Crestline
- Beech Avenue at Route 210 in Fontana
- Joshua Street at Highway 395 in Hesperia
- 5091 Richton Street between Central Avenue and Monte Vista Avenue (at the Montclair Trans Center) in Montclair
- 13231 Baseline at Interstate 15 in Rancho Cucamonga
- 9944 Highland Avenue east of Archibald Avenue (front parking lot of Highland Community Church) in Rancho Cucamonga
- 12000 Amargosa Road at Interstate 15 near Bear Valley Road in Victorville
- 16838 D Street at Interstate 15 (at the Victor Valley Transportation Center) in Victorville
- 31341 Hampton Road at Interstate 10 in Yucaipa
- 7485 Kickapoo Trail at Route 62 in Yucca Valley

California Rideshare Week, October 2-6

Rideshare Week is right around the corner, and workers everywhere are urged to try carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus or train, cycling, walking or telecommuting at least one day that week.

Through its commuter assistance program, SANBAG and the Riverside County Transportation Commission offer incentives to get solo drivers out of their cars and into the world of ridesharing. For details, visit commutesmart.info and go to “Find a Carpool/Vanpool.”

During Rideshare Week, SANBAG and RCTC staff are competing as to which agency can have the higher percentage of ridesharing. If SANBAG wins, RCTC staff will serve lunch to SANBAG staffers. If RCTC wins, SANBAG will serve breakfast to the Riverside staff. Game on!!